

# Elevate your Vacation Value with a Staycation this Summer

The weather is warming, and that means many around the state have begun to make their vacation plans. However, with economic conditions as they are, experts are predicting that travelers will be considering a visit to locations closer to home.

Luckily, if you live in or near Utah you have an unmatched variety of enjoyable travel experiences close at hand. Whether it is enjoying “Broadway in the Desert” at Tuacahn after hiking Zion National Park, or shopping on Park City’s Main Street after pedaling the Wasatch Crest Trail, the Utah experience is just down the street or over the next hill.

Southern Utah is a land of unsurpassed, unique beauty. Bikers negotiate rolling hummocks of slickrock. Hikers explore towering fins of sandstone. River runners test the powerful waterways of the Desert Southwest.

Southern Utah became famous for the red rock country; but the culture and events of the area have been pleasing visitors who come looking to create lasting memories. The Tony Award-winning® Utah Shakespearean Festival is held during the summer and fall in Cedar City, and is also within a day’s drive of Utah’s five national parks and other attractions.

In northern Utah, Wasatch Front residents find fun right at their doorsteps. From the gorgeous blue water of Bear Lake to the Wasatch and Uinta mountain ranges, a full-fledged vacation is available less than an hour’s drive in any direction. Park City hosts events all summer long including jazz, food, and art festivals, as well as other special events. Many of the area ski resorts run their lifts for mountain bikers who want to ride from the top down.

Antelope Island State Park, the largest island on the Great Salt Lake, offers outdoor recreation in quiet solitude only seven miles across a causeway just



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north of Utah's capital city. Opportunities to view wildlife (from bison to birds) are available on backcountry trails, which are open to horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking and even cross-country skiing in the winter. The Antelope Island Balloon Stampede draws a diverse crowd to the island every September.

Utah's capital city is not only an international gateway to some of the country's most exciting outdoor recreation; it is also a destination for local travelers. Salt Lake City's Utah Arts Festival has become one of the

largest festivals in the state. Temple Square is the state's most popular attraction—featuring peaceful beauty, elegant grounds, and the sounds of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Hogle Zoo, This is the Place State Park, and the Utah Natural History Museum are all ideal staycation spots, complementing any visit to Salt Lake City.

This is merely a glimpse into the staycation possibilities waiting for you right here in Utah. To find out more about events happening in Utah this summer visit: [www.nowplayingutah.com](http://www.nowplayingutah.com). 

